

Medicaid eligibility is determined. My legislation would expand this presumptive eligibility option to make it more flexible and attractive to the States. The presumptive eligibility period is normally sixty days and gives States sufficient time to complete the Medicaid eligibility determination process. If a state ultimately determines that the child is not eligible for Medicaid, none of these entities would be penalized or lose funding due to a negative determination. Under this legislation, we would be enrolling children on an expedited basis and could reach some of those three million children who are eligible but not enrolled.

While some would argue that there will be a cost associated with increasing participation in the Medicaid program, it is important to remember that when Congress enacted Medicaid, it assumed that these children would be covered. I would argue that adding these children is not only morally right, but also cost-effective in comparison to letting these children receive health care on an ad hoc basis. Many of these children will simply go to hospital emergency rooms for treatment and will not be able to pay for these services. In the end, we will pay the cost. With Medicaid coverage, our public institutions will be reimbursed and these children will receive better care through primary care providers instead of high-cost, emergency-care based services.

This legislation is also fiscally responsible in that it would require a state to deduct from their state allotment any funding used for this program. I believe that the small cost associated with this outreach effort will not adversely impact States' ability to provide health care for low-income children and in fact could reduce the States' disproportionate share expenditures.

We know that these children are not being properly served now and we must find innovative way to ensure that all eligible children are enrolled in Medicaid. My legislation would simply accelerate the application process while maintaining sufficient safeguards to prevent fraud and abuse. My legislation would give States greater flexibility to determine which entities can make these determinations, and States are authorized to apply certain limitations in order to prevent fraud and abuse. My legislation would also permit the Secretary of the Health and Human Services to review States' decisions and ensure that the appropriate entities are allowed to enroll these children. None of these entities could immediately offer these services until their state and the federal government has deemed them to be eligible to undertake preliminary determinations.

I believe this is an important public policy matter which we need to address. My legislation would enroll more children in Medicaid while ensuring that appropriate entities are reviewing the applications. I believe it is more cost-effective to enroll these children and ensure that they are receiving the primary care services they need, rather than sending these children to emergency rooms where they will be sicker and taxpayers will end up paying more. I also believe that we need to improve our current Medicaid presumptive eligibility law by including these new entities which were not included in the Balanced Budget Act. I strongly urge my colleague to support his critical legislation.

AMERICORPS PROGRAM

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it is truly tragic that some Members of this body do not fully recognize the outstanding record of contribution of the AmeriCorps program.

In community after community, across the entire nation, AmeriCorps volunteers are providing a wide range of essential services that are truly making a difference in people's lives. And, at the same time, these young people are making a difference in their own lives. They are becoming leaders who understand the importance of giving back to the community around them. They are earning a valuable educational benefit that will help them achieve their goals for the future.

Yesterday, we saw another unconscionable attack on AmeriCorps' funding by Members who have yet to acknowledge AmeriCorps' record of success. I am confident that these Members would not launch these politically motivated attacks if they would simply look at the successes around them—and admit to the important contributions that AmeriCorps is making in almost every community in the nation.

These members should talk to their local nonprofits. They should talk with their community leaders. And they should read their local newspapers. Because all around them is the evidence that AmeriCorps is making this nation a better place to live in and is cultivating an ethic of civic responsibility and community.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record one piece of this evidence—a news article from one of my local newspapers, the San Rafael/Terra Lina News Pointer, from February 4, 1998. This article demonstrates, once again, how AmeriCorps has become an important community resource in Marin County, California, which I am privileged to represent.

Recently, a bipartisan group of Members of Congress joined First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in endorsing new legislation to reauthorize our nation's national service programs, including AmeriCorps. I urge all members of Congress to join together, in a bipartisan fashion, to reject politically motivated attacks on AmeriCorps' funding, and to pass essential reauthorization legislation that will preserve AmeriCorps and other essential national service programs well into the future.

PARTNERSHIPS THAT PAY OFF

MARIN.—AmeriCorp, praised by President Bill Clinton in his 1998 State of the Union address, is an important community resource in Marin. The Marin Conservation Corps (MCC) is one of 1,500 designated AmeriCorps sites nationwide. To date MCC has trained and graduated three classes of AmeriCorps volunteers who have in turn provided valuable volunteer service to Marin's non-profit agencies.

Full-time corpsmembers commit to one-year of service to their community in exchange for job training and employment opportunities. Ten individuals, who worked at least 1,700 hours, participated in the Marin Recycling-Education and summer camps programs. These AmeriCorps volunteers taught environmental education, mentored kids

after school and served as role models for at-risk youth. Hand-on activities included bottle biology, reusable art projects, a peek at packaging, and making your own paper.

Ardis Ashton, Ricardo Diaz, Juanita Edwards, Ryan Holland Russel Lamerson, Erick Linares, Beau Siebler, Buna Soma, Gina Watkins and Walter Williams gained valuable job skills and work experience. In addition, they received \$4,725 education scholarship, which they can use to pursue educational goals or vocational training.

And thousands of Marin school children learned the "three r's"—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES BUTTON

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles (Charlie) Button who is leaving the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, the state agency that is overseeing the clean up of the Boston Harbor. The \$3.7 billion project is near completion and has been extremely successful in cleaning-up the harbor.

Over a decade ago, the harbor was so dirty it smelled like rotten eggs. But today, people have returned to the beaches to fish, swim and sail. The harbor has been successfully transformed from one of the dirtiest harbors in our nation to a sparkling body of water. Much of the success of the clean up of the harbor can be attributed to tireless efforts of Charlie Button.

In 1988, Charlie Button joined the MWRA's Program Management Division as the Director of Construction for the harbor project. He has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Tufts University and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Connecticut. Prior to joining the MWRA, he served as Chief Engineer for the Boston Water and Sewer Commission and helped to develop wastewater treatment projects in Hartford, Connecticut.

Charlie has done an incredible job managing the project. He oversaw the construction of a state-of-the-art sewage treatment facility for 2.5 million residents of 43 cities and towns in Massachusetts. The court-ordered project was completed on-time and under budget. That is what I call success!

Doug McDonald, MWRA Executive Director, said,

Charlie Button is extraordinary at moving complex projects forward in a logical, cost-effective, and smooth fashion. In addition to possessing the engineering skills and knowledge of the finest tradition he also showed poise and grace under pressure. Everyone here admires and respects Charlie Button.

Charlie Button has been in the public sector for the entire engineering career. He has given some of the best years of his life to the harbor project, and as a public spirited kind of guy, more than a few others to coaching Little League and youth hockey. I know that I speak for all of Charlie's colleagues, at the MWRA, and throughout the project, when I say thanks for everything, Charlie, the best of everything to you and Godspeed.

DEFENSE OF IWO JIMA GAINS
UNEXPECTED SUPPORT

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, an article in today's Saratogian, a newspaper that reaches some of my constituents in Saratoga County, New York, eloquently expressed the intense pride our courageous veterans, who put their lives in harms way for this great nation and all it stands for, have for the Iwo Jima Memorial. That monument has come to represent so much to so many people around this country and the world, and in many ways is one of the most famous monuments in our history. This article's author, David Rossie, has repeatedly made disparaging remarks about me. Yet, even he, who is embarrassed to agree with me, has endorsed my attempts to defend the importance and significance of the Iwo Jima Memorial. This just demonstrates how offensive J. Carter Brown has been to every American across the political spectrum.

[From the Saratogian, Apr. 1, 1998]

ARTS COMMISSION LEADER SHOWS ELITISM
WITH 'KITSCH' REMARK
(By David Rossie)

I have never met J. Carter Brown, chairman of the U.S. Commission of the Fine Arts. Chances are I never will. Probably just as well. For openers, I'm a bit leery of people who insist on being referred to by their first initial and middle name. They tend to be a bit pretentious. But the main reason I detest J. Carter Brown, sight unseen, is that he has put me somewhere I don't want to be—on the side of Rep. Gerald Solomon, (R.-N.Y.)

Solomon is an East Coast version of Bob Dornan, a Republican clown who was ousted from the House in 1996. Solomon is an embarrassment in a legislative body that is virtually embarrassment proof. But now, thanks to J. Carter, I find myself muttering, "Go get him, Gerald." Solomon wants J. Carter booted from the Art Commission because of disparaging remarks he made about the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington, Va. The monument is a sculpted bronze reproduction of Joe Rosenthal's photograph of Marines raising the U.S. flag atop Iwo Jima's Mt. Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945.

J. Carter thinks the memorial is, to use the term attributed to him by the Associated Press, "kitsch." My dictionary describes kitsch as "artistic material of low quality" meant "to appeal to popular taste and marked by sentimentality, sensationalism and slickness." J. Carter, former director of the National Gallery of Art, didn't say why he thinks the Iwo Jima memorial is kitsch.

A little background: On the morning of Feb. 23, 1945, Lt. Harold Schrier, 1st Battalion, 28th Marines, led a platoon to the crater atop Suribachi where the Marines raised a small flag that Schrier's battalion commander, Lt. Col. Chandler Johnson had given him hours earlier. The flag, attached to a piece of metal pipe, went up about 10:30 a.m. Sgt. Louis Lowery, a Marine photographer, captured the moment on film. The ceremony, such as it was, was interrupted by a small group of Japanese defenders, who began throwing hand grenades from a nearby cave. Perhaps they were art critics, with an aversion to kitsch. Who knows? In any event, Lowery was knocked about 50 feet down the side of the crater. He was unhurt, but his camera was broken. Three hours later, the first flag was replaced by a larger one

brought from a ship lying offshore. This time the raising was captured on film by Rosenthal, an AP photographer.

The guess here is that when Rosenthal's photo of the flag raising made it into newspapers in the United States, people found it inspiring.

I suspect they saw the picture as a metaphor for the unconquerable spirit of the young men fighting in the Pacific. Fighting and dying. Two of the Marines who first raised the flag, died before the island was secured more than a month after the picture was taken. So, too, did Col. Johnson.

When the fighting ended on Iwo Jima near the end of March, more than 6,800 members of the invading force were dead or missing and 18,000 had been wounded. Twenty-six Marines were awarded the Medal of Honor. Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Chester Nimitz said after the battle: "Among the Americans who served on Iwo Island, uncommon valor was a common virtue." But then Nimitz was just an old sentimentalist.

What J. Carter doesn't seem to understand is that the Iwo Jima memorial isn't just about Iwo Jima. It is a memorial to every Marine, living and dead, who fought on all those islands in the Pacific against an enemy who seldom surrendered and was fanatical in his bravery.

IN SUPPORT OF ALCOHOL AWARE-
NESS MONTH AND TAKE A STEP
DAY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Alcohol Awareness Month and Take a Step Day, a nationwide campaign developed by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. The goal of this national campaign is to draw attention to the problems of alcoholism and work for solutions to this disease. The campaign focuses public awareness on the widespread effects and damage associated with alcohol problems. It heightens the awareness of community residents and students in our schools about the monumental risks and consequences of alcohol abuse and misuse. In my district on Long Island, this important campaign is sponsored by the Long Island Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence.

Unfortunately, this type of awareness is all too necessary. Alcohol is the third leading cause of preventable death in our nation, killing nearly 100,000 Americans every year. 13.8 million Americans suffer from alcohol-related problems, including 8.1 million alcoholics. Over 43% of Americans have been exposed to alcoholism in their families and 13 million Americans drink heavily, which means they consume five or more drinks at a time on five or more days a month. These heavy drinkers are five times more likely to use illicit drugs and are more likely to require extensive medical care. Nearly one-fourth of all Americans admitted to general hospitals have alcohol problems or are undiagnosed alcoholics who are treated for the consequences of their drinking. Alcoholism and alcohol-related problems cost the American economy at least \$100 million health care and lost productivity every year.

During April, alcohol awareness month, I call upon my colleagues in Congress, along

with all citizens, parents, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, hospitals and schools to join me in fighting America's number-one drug problem by pledging to support research, education, housing, intervention and treatment for alcoholism and alcohol-related problems.

IN RECOGNITION OF J. DANNY
COOPER'S FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of J. Danny Cooper on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday.

A native of Chilton County, Alabama, Danny has been an active member in both his community and the state. Earning both a bachelor of arts degree in political science and a masters in education administration from the University of Montevallo, Danny has utilized his talents and his education for the good of all those around him. A former school teacher, Danny Cooper has also served as the Veterans' Affairs director, the community bicentennial chairman, and the county cancer crusade chairman.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, Danny Cooper has been active in national politics. Danny served as the executive director of a state political party, state campaign manager for a successful presidential candidate and state director to a U.S. Senator. Mr. Cooper's experience, however, has not been limited to this country. Danny attended, as the U.S. representative, a disaster preparedness conference of NATO nations in Brussels, Belgium.

In 1990, Danny was named Vice President of the Alabama Association of Realtors. He is a board member of the Alabama Civil Justice Reform Committee and the Alabama Council of Association Executives. He also is an active member of the American Society of Association Executives and Alabama's State Action Legislative Team Chair representing realtors. In addition to the above mentioned, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cooper is a member of 107 additional trade and professional associations in the state of Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, the list of accomplishments continues. Danny is one of those individuals who doesn't sit back and let others make decisions for him. He is one of those people who is determined to make a difference and help those around him. I am proud to know Danny and am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his accomplishments.

It is my hope that my fellow colleagues will join with me in wishing Danny Cooper a Happy Birthday.

IN HONOR OF JAMES LEONARD
FARMER, CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in honor of the contributions of a distinguished American citizen, Dr. James Leonard Farmer.